MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know which are the roads now intended to be so utilised?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise.

Buses owned by the State Transport Department.

193. *MR. K. A. MAHOMED: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of buses owned by the State Transport Department;

(*b*) the number of buses now in service;

(*c*) the average running mileage of a bus per day; and

(*d*) the average break down per day?

MR. E. G. SALTER: (*a*) 110.

(*b*) 98.

(*c*) 170 miles.

(*d*) Four.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: The average break down per day is put as four. Is there any system of testing the buses before they are sent out for service every day?

MR. E. G. SALTER: Yes Sir.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Is it accidental break downs? When there are 85 buses running on the roads and each one of them is tested very minutely every day there are four break downs on an average per day.

PRESIDENT: It is rather a surprise. The break downs ought to be 30 or 40. There are only 85 buses to cover the whole route. Others are not fit for service. These buses are being used because there is no other go. So four breakdowns seem to be too small a number.

MR. E. G. SALTER: For the purpose of replying to this question I may be allowed to say a word with regard to the interpretation of the term "break down." Break down is taken to mean any incident which results in loss of mileage or temporary dislocation of service. It is the interpretation given to that term by all Transport Organisations throughout the world. For that purpose, an accident in which the bus is held up for some time, or a puncture is regarded as a breakdown. As the Dewan President has pointed out, four is a modest figure and I suggest it testifies to the magnificent work of the mechanical and operating staff of the Transport Department. They cater to the public demand in a manner which deserves nothing but praise from the public.

Vehicles unfit for service.

194. *MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state regarding the State Transport Department:

(*a*) the average number of vehicles per day that was under repair and unfit for service during the half year ending with 30-6-1120 and,

(*b*) the average period taken to repair a vehicle and to put it on to service during this period?

MR. E. G. SALTER: (*a*) twelve.

(*b*) two weeks.

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